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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/521,378	01/18/2005	Frank Haase		2319
7590	11/14/2006		EXAMINER	
Jennifer D Adamson Shell Oil Company Intellectual Property PO Box 2463 Houston, TX 77252-2463			PRICE, CARL D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3749	

DATE MAILED: 11/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/521,378	HAASE, FRANK	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	CARL D. PRICE	3749	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01/18/2005 (Preliminary Amendment).
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 01/18/2005
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The subject matter of this application admits of illustration by a drawing to facilitate understanding of the invention. Applicant is required to furnish a drawing under 37 CFR 1.81(c). No new matter may be introduced in the required drawing. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Suppes et al** (Compression-Ignition Fuel Properties of Fischer-Tropsch Syncrude, Ind. Eng. Chem. Res. 1998, 37 2029-2038) in view of **US004764266 (Chen et al)** and **US03810732 (Koch)**.

Suppes et al (Compression-Ignition Fuel Properties of Fischer-Tropsch Syncrude, Ind. Eng. Chem. Res. 1998, 37 2029-2038) discloses burning light Fischer-Tropsch fuels or Syncrude (see page 2030, column 1, lines 27-36) in combustion apparatus such as internal combustion engines, as a suitable alternative to diesel and gasoline fuels (see page 2031, column 2, lines 4-35) in for example conventional diesel engines. Known light Fischer-Tropsch fuels disclosed by **Suppes et al** include the following properties:

- > 70% Fischer-Tropsch syncrude(see page 2031, column 2, lines 4-35), or 90% (by mass) of the light syncrude composition (see page 2029, column 2, lines 1-4);

- near-zero aromatic contents; and
- a boiling point of 170.6-314.9° C (Table 1).

US004764266 (Chen et al) discloses a process for using or burning middle distillate Fischer-Tropsch derived fuel having typically boiling in the 165.degree. to 345.degree. C. (about 330.degree. to 650.degree. F.) with lesser proportions of naphtha as a “home heating oil” (see column 10, line 16-34). This middle distillate fraction is, however, relatively low in sulfur and generally meets product specifications for use as a light fuel oil, e.g. home heating oil, diesel and jet fuels. In this regard Official Notice is taken that it is well known to burn “heating oil” in combustion apparatus associated with superheated steam boiler apparatus, and to use steam produced therefrom to power piston or expansion engines. **US004764266 (Chen et al)** acknowledges the presence of non-mineral fractions, or additives, in the Fischer-Tropsch distillate (e.g. – unconverted fractions).

US03810732 (Koch) teaches, from applicant’s same combustion and heating fuel field of endeavor, catalytic combustion (17,18; 21,22) of liquid fuel by first obtaining a mixture of liquid hydrocarbon in an oxygen containing gaseous phase (see column 9, lines 10-12) by evaporating the liquid hydrocarbon droplets to obtaining a gaseous mixture.

In regard to claims 1-11, for the purpose for providing an alternative fuel for conventional steam heating systems, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to operate steam heating system burners with Fischer-Tropsch fuel having additives and low aromatic and sulfur content and a density similar to that of home heating fuels (i.e. – between 0.65 and 0.8 g/cm³ at 15° C), in view of the teaching of the **US004764266 (Chen et al)**. For the purpose of providing a suitable burner for combusting the room temperature liquid fuel, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to evaporate liquid hydrocarbon droplets to obtaining a gaseous mixture and thereafter combust the mixture in a porous catalyst, which inherently produces an aerodynamically stabilized radiant flame, in view of the teaching of **US03810732 (Koch)**. In regard to claim 11, Official Notice is taken that

ionization type sensors are well known means for detecting flames. Therefore, in view of that which is well known and for the known purpose, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to detect the flame of a heating system burner.

Conclusion

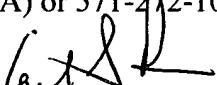
See the attached USPTO Form 948 for prior art made of record and not relied upon which is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

USPTO CUSTOMER CONTACT INFORMATION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CARL D. PRICE whose telephone number is (571) 272-4880. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday between 6:30am-3:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ehud Gartenberg can be reached on (571) 272-4828. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



CARL D. PRICE

Primary Examiner

Art Unit 3749